

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (cancelled)

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) The distributed feedback laser as claimed in claim 211, wherein the grating is formed under a ~~topmost step in said structure~~ lowest of the waveguides in the hierarchy.

4. (currently amended) The distributed feedback laser as claimed in claim 11, wherein the distributed feedback laser further comprises:

- a semiconductor substrate;
- a lower clad layer interposed between the semiconductor substrate and the guide layer; and
- an upper clad layer on the active layer and the lower clad layer so as to surround the guide layer.

5. (original) The distributed feedback laser as claimed in claim 4, wherein the distributed feedback laser further comprises:

- a upper electrode formed on the upper clad layer; and
- a lower electrode formed under the semiconductor substrate.

6. (cancelled)

7. (cancelled)

8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) ~~The laser of claim 10~~ The distributed feedback laser
comprising:
_____ a guide layer having at least a higher and a lower waveguide coupled in a
hierarchal Y-structure; and
_____ an active layer, formed on the guide layer, for oscillating light, wherein light is
transmitted having a predetermined wavelength, and the light is subjected to loss, using the
hierarchal Y-structure, according to a predetermined ratio while proceeding in a
predetermined direction in the laser, wherein the distributed feedback laser further includes
a grating that is formed under the guide layer and has a predetermined period, wherein the
laser has an end intended for losslessly outputting light by means of said structure, and a
highest of the waveguides in the hierarchy is disposed at said end.

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)